Reply of Government.— Specific cases may be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner who has promised to show all reasonable concessions in the matter.

SUBJECT No. 83.

Interest on takavi loans.

Mr. M. S. Ramachar, Kolar municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The Government pays less than 4 per cent on Savings Bank Deposits and on the funds deposited for charitable purposes, but Government charge more than 6 per cent on takavi loans advanced by them. It is prayed that the rate of interest on takavi loans may be reduced to 4 per cent.

Reply of Government.— The present rates are very favourable and cannot be reduced.

FORESTS.

(*Nos. 84—94.*)

SUBJECT No. 84.

State Forest in the malnad.

Mr. C. Vamana Rao, Nagar taluk.

Summary of discussion.—*Soppinabettas, gomal* lands and District Forests which were assigned in the interest of the malnad raiyat population have been included in the State Forests. Coupes are not convenient to the people. It is therefore requested that the question of State Forests may be reconsidered. These forests are brought too near inhabited villages with the result that it has led to much illness in the villages and caused much inconvenience to the villagers. The boundary of State Forests should be at least half a mile distant from an inhabited village. The member specially referred to the Devangundi and Basavankote forests.

Reply of Government.—The special cases referred to may be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, who will take necessary action. The question of fixing a limit as regards the boundaries of State Forests with reference to inhabited areas will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 85.

Sale of timber trees.

Mr. M. Subba Rao, Heggaddevankote taluk.

Summary of discussion.—By selling timber trees wholesale in coupes, there is room not only for stealthy removal of a great many trees but also for indiscriminate cutting. As timber is sold at reduced rates to wholesale purchasers by the Forest Department, there is the likelihood of the forest becoming denuded very soon and that the rainfall might thereby be diminished. It is therefore prayed that the exploitation of timber be undertaken departmentally. Though it is stated that only trees that are previously marked are felled, in practice this is neglected and the contractor is allowed to cut any trees he likes.

Mr. Mahomed Abbas Khan.—Departmental felling should altogether be stopped.

Reply of Government.—Noted.